



TOWN OF HUDSON

Conservation Commission



Jim Battis, Chairman

Nancy Brucker, Selectmen Liaison

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DATE: 10 March 2014

MEETING MINUTES Below is a listing of minutes for the Hudson Conservation Commission. Minutes are not a verbatim record of each meeting, but rather represent a summary of the discussion and actions taken at the meeting. All Conservation Commission meetings are televised live and repeated during the following week on HCTV, cable television channel 22. Official copies of the minutes are available to read and copy at the Town Engineer's Office during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.).

Should you have any questions concerning these minutes or wish to see the original recording, please contact the Town Engineer's Office at 603-886-6008.

A regular meeting of the Hudson Conservation Commission (HCC) was held in the Community Development Conference Room of Town Hall.

Members of the Commission present: J Battis, K Dickinson, R Jurewicz

Members of the Commission excused: R. Brownrigg, P Dubay

Members of the Commission absent: None

Member of Town Staff present: None

Board of Selectman Representative excused: N Brucker

Seating of Alternates: None

Called to Order at 7:25 pm.

I. PUBLIC INPUT RELATED TO NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

II. OLD BUSINESS

None

III. NEW BUSINESS

None

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Stewardship of Conserved Lands

Mr Battis noted that the Conservation Commission had held a Conservation Commission Trail Planning Workshop on 27 February. The meeting had been advertised in the Hudson Litchfield News to solicit public input. The meeting was attended by a quorum of members and one member of the public. As a result of this meeting four items were planned for summer work: (1) a trail in the northwest bump out of the Hamblett Property at the Musquash Conservation Land; (2) a trail connecting the Woodland Drive access to the Nash-Hamblett Trail completely on Town owned property; (3) completion of the trail work at the Town Forest; and (4) removal of the submerged bridge crossing between First and Second Swamp at the Musquash Conservation Area. Mr Battis also stated that he had discussed the boardwalk installation with the Assistant Town Engineer who concurred with the Conservation Commission's position that as a permitted use, no further review was required. He stated that he had sent the information on to the Zoning Administrator to confirm that judgment. He anticipated a response no later than the end of the week.

Mr Dickinson presented a map of the Town Forest Trail system as proposed last year. He noted that the system is essentially roughed out at this time with some small areas of saplings that need to be removed. Mr Dickinson hopes that the required clearing can be completed this month so that the required boardwalk can be set early this spring. He re-measured the location and found the narrowest crossing to be 18' although, until the snow melts, it will not be certain that this is the best location. He also noted that he had proposed a simple kiosk for the Town Forest entry similar to one located at the Pelham conservation land off Sherburne Road. He proposed a budget of \$1000 for the kiosk including signage in the kiosk. In response to a query from Mr Battis, he noted the budget for the Town Forest boardwalk, including materials for abutments, would be \$400.

Mr Battis noted that to reclaim reimbursement under the Trail Grant, all work must be completed before 30 June 2014. He stated that he would like to be certain that any funds we propose to expend would be for projects that could be completed in time for reimbursement. Mr Dickinson noted that it was his intent to take on one project at a time and not expend funds on a given project until the proceeding project was completed. Mr Jurewicz stated that as he understood the request, it is the maximum that could be expended but that the actual expenditures would be constrained by the completion date. Mr Dickinson concurred. A budget of \$2750 for the boardwalk (\$400), Town Forest kiosk (\$1000), gas and maintenance contingency (\$500), trail paint (\$500) and trail markers (\$350).

Motion to expend not more than \$2750 for trail work at the Town Forest and Musquash Conservation Land consisting of

- 1. Boardwalk at the Town Forest**
- 2. Town Forest Kiosk**
- 3. Gas and maintenance contingency of \$500**
- 4. Trail Paint**

and

- 5. Trail Markers**

for projects refundable under the trail grant and that the expenditure of money be

contingent on the ability to complete each separate project by 30 June 2014. The initial funding of these projects will come from the Conservation Fund with anticipation of refund by the state trail grant.

Motion by: R. Jurewicz

Second by: K Dickinson

Vote: For 3 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

Mr Dickinson noted two possible discrepancies with the new Musquash trail map in depicting the Hidden Ridge Trail and the Nacook Loop Trail. Mr Battis stated he would redo the GPSing of the Hidden Ridge Trail and it was noted that the missing trail off the Nacook Loop Trail was not depicted as it terminated at private property and it was felt that we did not want to encourage its use. Mr Dickinson suggested that perhaps a trail closed sign could be placed at the junction.

Mr Battis noted that we had completed a stewardship survey for the Musquash Conservation Land last November. He proposed that the Ingersoll Tree Farm stewardship survey be scheduled for 6 April 2014 at 9:00 AM at the Griffin Road entrance.

Mr Dickinson proposed a trail work day at the Town Forest for 22 March with a alternate date of 29 March at 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

V. Financial Status

Mr Battis noted that the budget status for Professional Services shows encumbered funds for the herbicide contracts which have the budget in the red. Other than this item we seem to be pretty close to the anticipated expenditures at this point overall. Individual line items may be in deficit but they are countered by other lines with no expenditures.

VI. Correspondence

None

VII. Minutes

Motion to approve the 10 February and 27 February 2014 minutes as presented.

Motion by: K Dickinson

Second by: R Jurewicz

Vote: For 3 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

VIII. Commissioner's Comments

Mr Dickinson thanked the Commission for approving the trail work motion and he will coordinate with the Chairman to ensure the money is expended appropriately.

Mr. Battis noted that the Commission has openings for both full and alternate members.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion: R Jurewicz

Seconded: K Dickinson

Vote: For 3 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

Meeting Adjourned at 8:31 pm.

James Battis, Chairman